

Application No.: 10/705,669

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Docket No.: 20050/0200480-US0

**REMARKS****Pending Claims:**

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include elements of claims 2 and 3. Moreover, the amendments to claim 1 are also supported at page 8, lines 2 to 9. No new matter has been added.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 12-17 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Leeker (H1363). Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Farris et al. (Farris).

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include elements of claims 2 and 3. The rest of claims all depend from claim 1 or 7 directly or indirectly. Therefore, the rejection of above claims based on Leeker or Farris has been rendered moot.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 12-17 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farris in view of Swanson et al. (Swanson). Claims 3, 8, 12, 15, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farris in view of 2000-51265 (Kao Corp.). Claims 3, 8, 12, 15, and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leeker in view of Kao Corp. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 18 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Farris and further in view of Lee et al. (Lcc). Claims 11 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farris and further in view of Wierlacher. Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farris in view of Kao Corp. and further in view of Wierlacher. Claims 11 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leeker in view of Wierlacher. Claim 19 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Leeker in view of Kao Corp. and further in view of Wierlacher.

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Claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, only relevant references against amended claim 1 are Farris in view of Kao Corp. and Leeker in view of Kao Corp. Other references, Swanson, Wierlacher, and Lee, do not disclose, teach or suggest at least the elements of claim 3. These other references have not been used to reject claim 3, and therefore, they are not believed to be relevant to the currently pending claims.

Kao Corp. teaches that "[t]he outer surface side of the packaging materials of the individual packages 1 for the absorptive articles discretely packaged by the packaging materials have embossed surfaces subjected to a regular embossing treatment of 2 to 25  $\mu\text{m}$  in average center line height (Ra)." (Abstract). It is clear from the description that the embossed surfaces are only at the outer surface side of the packaging material. Moreover, neither Farris nor Leeker discloses, teaches, or suggests fine protrusions on wrapping sheets.

In contrast, the present invention of claims 1 and 7 defines fine protrusions to be located at the inner surfaces of the wrapping sheets to space the sheets away from each other. As explained on page 8, lines 2 to 9, the fine protrusions are provided so that when menstrual blood seeps into the sheets, the sheets themselves do not tightly stick to each other. Kao Corp. only teaches providing embossed surfaces at the outer surface side of each package so that the packages do not slide and slip relative to each other.

Thus, Farris in view of Kao Corp. or Leeker in view of Kao Corp. does not disclose, teach or suggest the presently claimed invention of claim 1 or 7. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found the present invention of claim 1 or 7 obvious from the cited prior art references.

Furthermore, dependent claims of 1 or 7 are not anticipated by or obvious from the cited prior art references for at least the same reasons as claim 1 or 7.

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In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: February 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Chris T. Mizumoto

Registration No.: 42,899

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant

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